

Sixth Form Curriculum Information 2010-2011

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THE SIXTH FORM AT ST CHRISTOPHER

The Sixth Form in any school represents the pinnacle of school life: the academic work is at its most challenging; the opportunities for developing one's personality and wider social skills are at their greatest; extra-curricular activities flourish at their broadest. It is the place, too, from where the horizons of the future can most obviously be viewed. The Sixth Form is the juncture at which the transition from school to university, or, for a few, the world of work begins.

St Christopher's Sixth Form offers all these features. The quality of the experience of being a Sixth Former at St Christopher prepares students as fully as possible for life after school.

Our relatively small size ensures that students can be given outstanding support as they make decisions about university entrance – decisions which will almost certainly have a great influence on their lives. The fact that our community allows everyone to know each other very well provides them with a truly collaborative academic atmosphere. Students have opportunities through the School Council and the roles of Major Officials to influence the way the School develops. They become aware, through direct experience, that privilege brings responsibility.

St Christopher's Sixth Form offers a wide range of A Level courses. Class sizes are small and students enjoy much individual attention. Facilities are excellent with many specialist areas purpose built and equipped to the highest standards. There is a specific Sixth Form Centre and excellent extra-curricular provision for drama, music and sport. St Christopher has always been keen to produce well-balanced people. Sixth Form life at St Christopher combines hard work and enjoyment.

The Sixth Form is also a time when interests widen. St Christopher's long-standing commitment to its local community, to issues of international concern such as environmentalism and globalisation, and to the development of independently-minded individuals, all ensure that involvement in major issues can be combined with academic work. The School is a very outward-looking community.

The School has a long-standing record of academic success, pupils regularly gain admission to the very best universities (including Oxford, Cambridge and Russell Group). Its concern with the needs of the individual, its connections with the developing world (through our long-standing links with projects in Rajasthan and Kosovo), means that St Christopher offers a genuinely stimulating, enjoyable and successful Sixth Form experience.

THE ACADEMIC PROGRAMME IN THE SIXTH FORM

Entry Standard:

We expect our prospective Sixth Formers to obtain at least 6 GCSEs at grade B or above in order to follow an AS/A Level programme, with at least B grades in the subjects selected for study at A Level, or in relevant subjects where a student is starting a subject from scratch (such as Psychology or Economics). Those not offering GCSEs will need to show suitable ability. In practice, the vast majority of entrants into our Sixth Form gain significantly better results than the minimum requirement.

Recent Results:

St Christopher takes a broad view of academic success. Clearly, we regard A Level results as important. Our pupils nearly always gain access to the universities of their choice. These destinations include Oxford, Cambridge, Russell Group universities, as well as newer universities. Some students move on to Art Foundation Courses before pursuing courses in Fine Arts or Design. Most significantly, we have no doubt that the breadth of the experience of St Christopher prepares our students well for university life and the world of employment. They have a maturity and independence which helps them to settle relatively easily into higher education and to make the most of the opportunities they find there.

Academic Programme:

The majority of students study 4 or 5 AS Levels in the Lower Sixth, reducing to 3 or 4 A Levels in the Upper Sixth.

Choosing an A level Programme:

For internal candidates, the process of deciding which A Levels to take starts in the October of Year 11 with a Sixth Form Information Evening followed by initial interviews. During this time we hope to make students aware of the options that are available and encourage students to begin to consider their A Level choices.

Most students are motivated to take an A Level subject that they find interesting. This may also be combined with a personal aptitude for the subject. Moreover, students should bear in mind their possible future university courses and careers. For example, if you are thinking of studying medicine at university, it is essential to take Chemistry at A Level.

By starting the thought process early in Year 11 students have time to look into options in a careful and informed manner.

There is a Lower Sixth Form Induction Conference on the day before the start of the Lower Sixth year in September. Students will by then have received their GCSE results. This conference provides a further opportunity to meet with the A Level subject teachers and receive advice and guidance towards the students' final choices. The conference also offers the opportunity for new students to the School to receive further advice and guidance, in addition to the discussions that may take place during the admissions process. Clearly, at this stage in the process, students will only be able to choose subjects from the blocks established in the timetable.

Subjects offered:

21 AS and A Level subjects are currently offered:

Art	Further Mathematics	PE
Biology	Geography	Photography
Chemistry	History	Physics
Design Technology	Mathematics	Politics
Economics	Media Studies	Psychology
English	Music	Spanish
French	Music Technology	Theatre Studies

Subject combinations and subject blocks:

Blocks are set annually to ensure that the maximum number of students have their desired combination of A Level subjects. However, due to staffing and timetable constraints we cannot guarantee to provide all combinations of subjects.

It is also possible that courses will not run if the level of interest is very low. If this is the case, the School may make the decision to withdraw a subject in mid February prior to the start of the school year and will inform pupils and parents.

Entry into the Upper Sixth:

It needs to be recognised that Lower Sixth students do not have an absolute right of progress to the Upper Sixth. To some extent, progress depends on achieving satisfactory results at AS Level. However, work habits, attitude and evidence of determination are also considered. St Christopher has always taken pride in pupils who work hard and display positive attitudes to the wider life of the School. This will continue to be the case.

THE BROADER SIXTH FORM CURRICULUM

As well as following their individual academic programme, members of the Sixth Form also take part in a number of other activities that are designed to broaden the experience of our Sixth Formers.

It is very much part of the St Christopher tradition to encourage students to develop their personalities and interests as widely as possible. This process will be every bit as important as academic success when the time comes to find employment after university.

The Sixth Form Induction Programme:

There is a Lower Sixth Induction Conference on the day before the start of the school year in September. This is followed by a two-week induction into the students' chosen A Level subjects. At the end of these two weeks the whole Lower Sixth takes part in a bonding weekend in the Peak District. This popular trip involves walks and ice-breaking activities to encourage the Lower Sixth to get to know one another. The two-week induction programme is particularly helpful for students who are new to the School.

Weekly talk to the Lower Sixth:

Most weeks a guest speaker gives a talk to the Lower Sixth. These compulsory sessions are a stimulating extension to the students' programme and provide ample opportunity for questions and discussions at the end of the sessions. Over the last few years the talks have included: Positive Voice for HIV; Interview Skills; GAP year organisation; a Newspaper Editor; a University Admissions officer.

University entrance and careers advice:

These topics are introduced during the weekly talks in the Lower Sixth. They are further developed through the School's Careers Advisers and the local Connexions service. There is a well-stocked careers room in the School Library. During the Autumn Term the Upper Sixth students are given extensive individual guidance on choosing a university course and with their UCAS application. Students are also encouraged to attend university open days.

Community service:

All members of the Lower Sixth are expected to do some community service. This has been found to be a rewarding experience for the students and has, on occasion, led students to further volunteer work in the Upper Sixth or during a Gap Year. The School has links with several local schools, old people's homes, community-based arts programmes and local charities such as Riding for the Disabled and Furniture Link (providing used furniture for those in need) so there is a wide range of choices. There are also opportunities within School, including helping with the Junior School sports and after-school activities. Students can also make their own suggestions.

Sport:

There is the opportunity to join in with a wide range of sport including badminton, football, rugby, netball, basketball, tennis and cricket. The School also has its own fully-equipped gym and a large indoor heated swimming pool. Since exercise is so important for a healthy lifestyle, we strongly encourage all students to participate.

Responsibility within the School:

Students are encouraged to become a Major Official as this provides them with many challenges and responsibilities which will stand them in good stead in their future lives. There is also the opportunity to become a member of one of the School Committees, for instance the Relief Committee or "Be Green", our Environment Committee.

Subject related conferences and educational trips:

As part of the academic programme, departments frequently arrange trips to extend students' academic experience. These have included English, Biology and Psychology conferences, poetry workshops, art gallery visits, Art trips to St Ives, visits to a Crown Court, theatre trips, Biology field trips and foreign language exchange visits for language students.

Other trips and visits in the Sixth Form:

Students may take part in several other trips during the year. Lower Sixth students have the opportunity to take part in a unique educational project in Rajasthan and more recently, a summer activities project in Kosovo. During the Late Summer Programme at the end of the Summer Term Lower Sixth students can also choose from a range of options, from helping on the Year 9 trip to Saas Fee in Switzerland to completing work experience and Art and Theatre projects.

Options Afternoon:

The whole Senior School is involved in an activities programme every Thursday afternoon. Some of the current options include kick-boxing, jewellery, pottery, debating, climbing and environmental projects.

Each option runs for approximately eight weeks. Lower Sixth students have the opportunity to participate in these and there are also Sixth Form specific options such as Rajasthan preparation sessions.

Additional Activities:

Music There is the opportunity to learn a number of different musical instruments at School. There is a School Orchestra and a number of other bands, including a Jazz Band. There are frequent opportunities to take part in music evenings.

Theatre The School has its own fully-equipped theatre and drama studio, and there are regular theatre productions during the year. There is an opportunity to join the technical support team in the Theatre.

Other Activities There are many additions to the School programme, which range from: the Wednesday Debate, where issues proposed by students are formally debated, to the Recycled Fashion Show, a popular yearly event which encourages students to either design or model fashion items made from recycled materials.

Sixth Form Centre:

The Sixth Form Centre and Garden form the core of the social life in the Sixth Form, where Sixth Form students can relax and socialise. The facilities include a comfortable seating area and a kitchen area, computers, TV and table football. There are also study carrels for day students to use for individual quiet study.

Art AS + A2 / Photography AS + A2

Why study Art / Photography?

The courses aim to encourage you to develop your intellectual, imaginative, creative and intuitive powers. These attributes are increasingly valuable in many areas of contemporary society.

Investigative, analytical, experimental, practical, technical and expressive skills are fostered along with aesthetic understanding and critical judgment.

From all of this an appropriate foundation is laid for understanding the interrelationships between art, craft and design and an awareness of the contexts in which they operate in other times and cultures as well as our own.

The course aims to foster a life-long interest and enjoyment of art and design.

What will you need to be good at?

The student will require proven ability in both creative and technical skills.

How will you be taught?

Throughout the course the student is given individual directions and guidance, although we place much value on dependence, personal responsibility and creativity. The facilities available and approaches taken have much in common with Art College methodology.

What can you do with the qualification?

The department has a long record of entry into the country's top Art Colleges. An A Level in Art is accepted by universities for most courses and need not necessarily lead to specialisation in the subject. If in doubt students should seek advice.

What does the course involve?

We follow the AQA Specification which is assessed through a combination of examinations and coursework as follows:

AS Course

	Module Title	Content	weighting	Assessment
Unit 1	Coursework Portfolio	Candidates choose the Unendorsed option or one of the Endorsed options for study throughout AS.	50% AS 25% A2	Set and marked by teacher. Externally moderated
Unit 2	Exam	A range of questions is set by AQA and an increased period of time is allowed for Preliminary Studies. Candidates have a 5 hour Controlled Test, in their chosen option, to produce developmental work.	50% AS 25% A2	Set and moderated externally. Marked by teacher

A2 Course

	Module Title	Content	weighting	Assessment
Unit 3	Coursework Personal Investigation	Personal practical investigation supported by a written element of 1000-3000 words.	25% A2	Set and marked by teacher. Assessed externally
Unit 4	Exam	A range of questions is set by AQA and an increased period of time is allowed for Preliminary Studies. Candidates have a 15 hour Controlled Test.	25% A2	Set and moderated externally. Marked by teacher

Biology AS + A2

Why study Biology?

By the end of the two-year A Level course you will not only be in a possession of a well-respected qualification for entrance to university, but also equipped with a firm knowledge of general biology and an understanding of the scientific basis and implications of such topics as:

- The Human Genome Project
- DNA profiling and other genetic technologies
- Disease and health issues such as TB and cholera
- Stem cell therapies
- Environmental impact of human activities

What will you need to be good at?

Biology appeals to a broad spectrum of students; from those who pursue only sciences, to those who are much more arts/humanities based but who want breadth to their studies. Whatever your other preferences may be, it is essential that you have a genuine interest in the subject and that you have the necessary aptitude and commitment. Grade B or above in GCSE Additional Science and Core Science or their equivalent is expected.

You will need to be able to communicate effectively, both in writing and orally, be able to research information from a variety of sources, have a good memory for scientific names and factual information, be confident in handling and interpreting data in graphs, tables and in other forms and read around the subject.

How will you be taught?

Learning in A Level Biology is a co-operative exercise, involving class teaching, practical work, wider and deeper reading (via textbooks, *New Scientist* magazine, *Biological Sciences Review* magazine, news@nature.com weekly emails), and participation in discussions within the class. There are several opportunities to attend university lectures aimed at Year 12/13 students and to participate in field work.

What can you do with the qualification?

Past students of AS/A2 biology have gone on to successfully follow a degree in a huge variety of courses, including: Medicine, Biochemistry, Forensic Biology, Anthropology, Archaeology, Psychology, Sports Science. Whatever they opt for, it is the 'Russell Group' of top universities that is the usual destination for St Christopher A Level biologists.

What does the course involve?

We follow the AQA Specification which is assessed through a combination of examinations and coursework as follows:

AS Course

	Module Title	Content	weighting	Assessment
Unit 1	Biology and Disease	Infectious Diseases; Digestive System; Cells; Respiratory System and associated diseases; Heart Structure, Function and Disease; Immunology.	33.3% AS 16.7% A2	Written Exam
Unit 2	The Variety of Living Organisms	Variation; DNA; Biochemistry and Cellular Organisation; Transport Systems; Classification; Selection.	46.7% AS 23.3% A2	Written Exam
Unit 3	Investigative and practical skills in AS Biology	Four skill areas are assessed: planning, implementing, analysing and evaluating.	20% AS 10% A2	Centre assessed and ISA

A2 Course

	Module Title	Content	weighting	Assessment
Unit 4	Population and Environment	Dynamic Equilibrium; Photosynthesis; Respiration; Energy Transfer through an Ecosystem; Selection and Speciation.	16.7%	Written Exam
Unit 5	Control in Cells and Organisms	Nervous and Endocrine systems; Homeostasis; Genetics (including Gene Therapy and Genetic Fingerprinting).	23.3%	Terminal Written Exam
Unit 6	Investigative and practical skills in A2 Biology	Four skill areas are assessed: planning; implementing; analysing and evaluating.	10%	Centre assessed and ISA

Chemistry AS + A2

Why study Chemistry?

A-Level Chemistry is intellectually challenging. You will learn a little Quantum Theory in order to understand how electrons behave in atoms, and use the Laws of Thermodynamics to understand why changes happen in the way they do, why energy sometimes seems to go "uphill". Many students take Chemistry A Level as a support for Biology as there is a considerable amount of biochemistry in Biology, for instance the complex chemical reactions involved in processes like photosynthesis and respiration.

What will you need to be good at?

Chemistry, like other sciences, isn't easy; we are studying nature and nature is somewhat complex - if it weren't we wouldn't be here, as living organisms require complex and subtle chemistry.

This means that you should be getting A or B grades in 2 or more Science at GCSEs. A-level Chemistry is more mathematical in places than at GCSE, so ideally you would also have an A or B grade in GCSE Maths. If you intend to study Chemistry or Biochemistry at university level you should also take A Level Maths. However, this is not essential in order to understand the Maths in the A Level Chemistry course.

How will you be taught?

Classwork, questioning, completing problems to work things out, practical work, demonstration, research from text books.

The main difference you will find between GCSE and A-Level is that there will be an emphasis on trying to explain, where possible, why things happen as they do. There is also an expectation that students will take on more responsibility for their own learning and maintaining deadlines.

What can you do with the qualification?

Careers that have specific links to Chemistry include:

Chemical Engineering, which requires people who understand chemical reactions and are also particularly good at Physics and Maths.

For Medicine and Veterinary Medicine you need a very good A Level grade in Chemistry, as entry is extremely competitive.

Scientists find employment at all sorts of levels and in all sorts of places. Industry takes people with A Level Science qualifications as technicians and research assistants, doing routine testing or helping a research team. Many get degree level qualifications and work in such diverse fields as teaching, research, museums and art galleries (conserving objects), water companies (monitoring pollution), manufacturing industry (monitoring quality of product), etc. Many end up doing other things which do not directly involve their Science, such as Management, or even, as one person did, becoming the first Prime Minister with a Chemistry degree!

What does the course involve?

We follow the OCR H034 and H434 Specification which is assessed through a combination of examinations and coursework as follows:

AS Course

	Module Title	Content	weighting	Assessment
Unit F321	Atoms, Bonds and Groups	Bonding, Structure, the Periodic Table, Chemical Calculation.	30% AS 15% A2	Paper
Unit F322	Chains, Energy and Resources	Organic Chemistry, Rates and Equilibria.	50% AS 25% A2	Paper
Unit F323	Practical Skills	Teacher-assessed tasks.	20% AS 10% A2	Coursework

A2 Course

	Module Title	Content	weighting	Assessment
Unit F324	Rings, Polymers and Analysis	Further Organic Chemistry and Spectroscopy.	15%	Paper
Unit F325	Equilibria, Energetics and Elements	Rates, Equilibrium, pH, Energy, Entropy and Transition Elements.	25%	Paper
Unit F326	Practical Skills 2	Teacher-assessed tasks.	10%	Coursework

Design and Technology AS + A2

Why study Design and Technology?

Because it is fun! It offers a satisfying academic – yes, academic - pursuit that involves far less sitting down than most other subjects!

Because it involves a wide range of enjoyable activities that develop your creative, intellectual and making abilities. You will produce high quality folio work and well engineered/crafted practical projects and demonstrate your increased understanding of design theory. You will experience and become more expert in the use of a wide range of skills, tools, machines and processes.

You will share in discussions and learning based around the wider world of technology and products – their impact on people, their design and manufacture, what has influenced the development of various strands of technology in modern life.

What will you need to be good at?

Thinking creatively and analytically, communicating effectively using a wide range of methods. These will include explaining concepts, clear annotation, freehand sketching, model-making and detailed drawing, Computer-Aided Design.

Being self-disciplined with coursework: keeping to specific short-term deadlines and also pacing yourself carefully with long-term project work. You will need stamina and a 'little and often' approach rather than intermittent late nights! Ideally you will be keen to attend extra-curricular sessions.

Ideally you will have completed a successful high grade GCSE project displaying a good level of practical skill, and found the theory exam content at that level to have been both interesting and relatively easy to master.

How will you be taught?

You will be taught by both teachers in the Department. Each year the bulk of your time will focus on the design and manufacture of a single substantial Project of your own choosing (with our agreement!). There will also be regular theory lessons (spiced up with props, DVDs, etc). As the year progresses, you will focus increasingly on the project and teachers will support you with this in lessons and in after-school sessions. You would be expected to put in extra-curricular workshop time, being very welcome at after-school 'shed' sessions as well as during any study periods that suit you.

What can you do with the qualification?

DT is relevant to a wide range of career disciplines, particularly those in the creative industries. DT is a key requirement for those wishing to follow courses in Industrial / Product Design, but is also a very suitable qualification for Engineering and for those intending to follow more artistic careers.

What does the course involve?

AQA Design and Technology GCE A level: "Product Design"

AS Course

	Module Title	Content	weighting	Assessment
Unit 1	Theory exam	Materials, Components + Applications Definitions, Examples, Properties. Sketching, Product Analysis + some designing.	25% of total A level	2 hour exam: Section 1: 3 short compulsory questions (section total 20 marks) Section 2: 1 Q from 2 given: includes drawing (question = 20 marks) Section 3: 1 given Product Analysis question (question = 40 marks) Total 80 marks
Unit 2	Coursework Project	1. Investigation and Clarification of Problems 8 marks 2. Development of Design Proposal 24 marks 3. Making / Modelling 24 marks 4. Evaluation + Testing 12 marks 5. Communication + Presentation 12 marks	25% of total A level	60 hours: Folder + Practical Ongoing assessment of coursework by teaching staff. Externally moderated. Total 80 marks

A2 Course

	Module Title	Content	weighting	Assessment
Unit 3	Theory exam	Design + Manufacture. Design + Market influences. Processes + Manufacture. Materials + Components. INCLUDES AS THEORY CONTENT Section 1: Famous Designer, Sustainability, Technological Developments, etc Section 2: Influence of ICT: CAD/CAM, Systems/Safety, QA/QC, Scales of Production, etc	25% of total A level	2 hour exam: Section 1: 1 Q from 3 given (question = 28 marks) Section 2: 1 Q from 3 given (question = 28 marks) PLUS: 1 Q from either section (question = 28 marks) Total 84 marks
Unit 4	Coursework Project	1. Context + Objectives 5 marks 2. Plan of Action + Clarification of Problem 8 marks 3. Development of Design Proposal 26 marks 4. Manufacturing / Modelling 26 marks 5. Conclusions, Evaluations, Recommendations 12 marks 6. Communication + Presentation 8 marks	25% of total A level	60 Hours: Folder + Practical Ongoing assessment of coursework by teaching staff. Externally moderated. Total 85 marks

Economics AS +A2

Why Study Economics?

Economics provides a valuable insight into the causes and effects of economic developments in the UK economy and an appreciation of the reasons why governments seek to influence the nature and rate of economic change. You will become informed about economic affairs in relation to both the UK and the global economy. You will understand what lies behind the Government's economic policies in relation to its spending and taxation powers and the role of the Bank of England in setting interest rates. You will also learn how the performance of the UK economy is very much influenced by developments in the international economy.

What will you need to be good at?

Each class is part of a building process whereby you gradually gain an understanding of the workings of the UK economy. You should develop an interest in the subject beyond the classroom by being aware of current economic affairs and any changes in government economic policies. You will have a textbook to support your course but your priority must always be having up-to-date notes and becoming familiar with them.

Economics is not about the world of finance and neither do you have to be good at Maths. These are two common misconceptions about Economics. You need nothing more than basic numeracy skills. It's about far more important things than money, the world of finance or big business! The number of students studying Economics is currently rising at an annual rate of 10%.

How will you be taught?

The material covered in classes will be broken down into a series of mini topics and time is devoted to explaining the contents and significance of each topic. There is much opportunity for questions and answers before summarising the topic in your file. In some cases a diagrammatic approach is taken such as when dealing with the forces of demand and supply in the markets where firms operate. The use of demand and supply diagrams to describe developments in various kinds of markets will be practised on a regular basis.

The subject content is expanded upon in the context of real world economic events. You will be given guidelines on researching material on current and recent real world economic issues as this is a valuable way of preparing for the kinds of case studies used for questions in both AS and A2 examinations. The majority of homework tasks are based on previous exam papers and guidelines are always given on how to tackle them. You are also encouraged to contact the tutor at the earliest opportunity if you have any problems with your homework.

What careers can you follow from the study of Economics?

The course will provide a valuable introduction to the areas of Economics that are usually part of a degree in Business, Accountancy or Management for example. If you do follow a career in industry or commerce it will also equip you with the kind of knowledge to understand the potential effects of economic developments on the business world. This is not only economic developments within the UK but also the effects of changes within the global economy.

AS Course

	Module Title	Content	weighting	Assessment
Unit 1	Markets and Market Failure	The Economic Problem. The Allocation of Resources in Competitive Economies. Production and Efficiency. Market Failure. Government Intervention in the Market.	25%of total A level mark. One hour 15 minutes	Section A: 25 compulsory objective test questions. Section B: One data response question from choice of two.
Unit 2	The National Economy	The measurement of the UK's Economic Performance How the UK economy operates. Economic Objectives. The Government's economic policies.	25%of total A level mark. One hour 15 minutes.	Section A: 25 compulsory objective test questions. Section B: One optional data response question from choice of two

A2 Course

	Module Title	Content	weighting	Assessment
Unit 3	Business Economics and the Distribution of Income.	The firm: Objectives, Costs and Revenues. Competitive Markets. Concentrated Markets. The Labour Market. Government Intervention in Markets.	25%of total A level mark. 2 hours.	One data response question from choice of two.

English AS + A2

Why study English?

These courses include the study of several texts from different periods and in a range of literary forms. Students develop reading and writing skills to explore texts critically and develop their own personal responses. English combines well with almost all other AS/A Level subjects. It is a substantial academic subject which develops understanding and communication skills.

What will you need to be good at?

Under normal circumstances, students should have passes in BOTH English and English Literature at GCSE grade B or above. In addition, they should have a genuine enthusiasm for reading, writing and talking. As with most subjects at this level, to study independently and read widely is essential.

How will you be taught?

English lessons involve a good deal of shared reading and discussion. In addition students will be required to undertake substantial reading and writing assignments outside the class. Lessons are supplemented by theatre visits and conferences on texts.

What can you do with the qualification?

The qualification is very versatile and may be useful in many fields. Evidence of literacy, critical thinking and communication skills is always valued. An A Level in English obviously complements other Arts and Humanities subjects but it is also valued by universities in an application for any degree course.

What does the course involve?

We follow the English AQA Specification B which is assessed through a combination of examinations and coursework as follows:

AS Course (1746)

	Module Title	Content	weighting	Assessment
Unit 1	Aspects of Narrative	Four texts for study: two novels (at least one post 1990) and two poetry texts written between 1800-1945. The paper has two sections. Candidates answer one question from each section.	60% AS 30% A2	Written paper 2 hours Open book
Unit 2	Dramatic Genres	Minimum of two texts for study within dramatic genre of Tragedy.	40% AS 20% A2	Coursework Two pieces of written coursework (one may be re-creative) each 1200-1500 words

A2 Course (2746)

	Module Title	Content	weighting	Assessment
Unit 3	Texts and Genres	Minimum three texts for study including at least one text written between 1300-1800. Candidates choose one topic area for study: Elements of the Gothic, or Elements of the Pastoral. For each topic there will be two sections. Candidates answer one question from each section.	30%	Written paper 2 hours Closed book
Unit 4	Further and Independent Reading	Minimum of three texts for study including one pre-released anthology of critical material. A portfolio of two pieces of written coursework: comparative study of an aspect of two texts (1500-2000 words); an application of an aspect of pre-released critical anthology to a literary text (1200-1500 words).	20%	Coursework

French AS + A2

Why study French?

Gaining a deeper knowledge of the French Language. A growing awareness of French culture, history, current affairs and media. An insight into the world of work, leisure and contemporary issues in France. Spending time in France at our exchange school, with the opportunity of work experience at the same time.

What will you need to be good at?

A grade A or B at GCSE is essential, grade A or above is highly desirable. You must also be prepared to read a lot and analyse what you have read, so an interest in literature is useful.

Grammar is important at A Level, so you need to be good at seeing how and why things fit together. You need to have good research and drafting skills in preparation for producing a high standard of work in the extended writing task.

How will you be taught?

Lesson teaching is usually shared between two teachers. There will be class teaching, presentation by students, group work, video and listening comprehensions, personal use of the Internet for research and communication and one-to-one sessions with a teacher for conversation practice.

There is also a language assistant (native speaker) who will do one-to-one practice and support.

What can you do with the qualification?

You can combine a language with many other subjects at university.

With the ever-broadening market for jobs in Europe (and the ever-increasing competition for those same jobs with people from all over Europe) it is a good idea to continue with a language to as high a level as you can.

What does the course involve?

We follow the new OCR Specification which is assessed through as follows:

AS Course

	Module Title	Content	weighting	Assessment
Unit 1	French Speaking	An extended 5 minute role play (to be developed from a cue text in English). A 10 minute topic discussion on a topic of the student's choice	30% AS 15% A2	15 Minute Oral Exam – competent communication skills are most important in the assessment.
Unit 2	Listening, Reading & Writing	Mixed skills paper stressing comprehension and responding adequately to cue texts.	70% AS 35% A2	2 ½ hour mixed skill paper testing mainly vocabulary & comprehension.

A2 Course

	Module Title	Content	weighting	Assessment
Unit 3	Speaking and Reading (Oral Exam)	5 minute discussion of a text in the target language & 10 minute topic discussion on a current affairs theme.	15%	Language proficiency, complexity and fluency. 15 Minute oral exam.
Unit 4	Listening, Reading and Writing	Mixed skills paper assessing all language skills except speaking. General proficiency in a wide range of skills and structures. This paper now includes an essay-writing task	35%	3 hour paper.

Further Mathematics AS + A2

Why study Further Mathematics?

If you are very skilled at Mathematics then Further Mathematics gives you the opportunity to broaden and extend your understanding to other areas of the subject. You will study further topics in Pure Mathematics and Mechanics. There is some flexibility in the course; we try to accommodate students' particular areas of interest as far as possible; there is the possibility, for example, of studying the newer branch of Mathematics known as Decision Mathematics. The study of Further Mathematics is essential for anyone wishing to study Mathematics at degree level at one of the top universities. Further Mathematics is also essential for some other degrees such as Engineering at Cambridge.

What will you need to be good at?

You will need to study A level Mathematics as well. You will need to be very good at Mathematics and to have gained an A* or very high A grade for your GCSE. You will be fluent in the use of algebra and enjoy problem solving.

How will you be taught?

You will have either two teachers for Further Mathematics. Lessons will be in much the same style as for GCSE although students will need to spend more time on independent practice outside the classroom.

What can you do with the qualification?

Anything really – certainly the same careers as mentioned for Mathematics. The majority of students studying Further Mathematics are certainly likely to continue to university to study either Mathematics, Physics, another Science or Engineering.

Edexcel (9372)

There is some flexibility in the modules taken.
The table below gives a possible combination.

AS Course (Further Mathematics)

	Module Title	Content	weighting	Assessment
Unit 1	FP1 (Further Pure 1)	Series Complex Numbers Coordinate Systems Matrix Algebra Proof Numerical Solution of Equations	$16^{2/3}\%$	90 minute exam
Unit 2	M2 (Mechanics 2)	Projectiles Centre of Mass Conservation of Energy Power Collisions Rigid Bodies	$16^{2/3}\%$	90 minute exam
Unit 3	D1 (Decision maths 1)	Algorithms Graphs and Networks Route Inspection Problem Critical Path Analysis Linear Programming Matchings	$16^{2/3}\%$	90 minute exam

A2 Course

	Module Title	Content	weighting	Assessment
Unit 4	FP2 (Further Pure 2)	Inequalities, Series Further Complex Numbers First and Second Order Differential Equations Polar Coordinates Maclaurin and Taylor Series	$16^{2/3}\%$	90 minute exam
Unit 5	M3 (Mechanics 3)	Further Kinematics Elastic Springs and Strings Further Dynamics Circular Motion Statics of Rigid Bodies	$16^{2/3}\%$	90 minute exam
Unit 6	FP3 (Further Pure 3)	Hyperbolic Functions Further Coordinate Systems Further Differentiation and Integration Vectors Further Matrix Algebra	$16^{2/3}\%$	90 minute exam

Geography AS + A2

Why study Geography?

Geography is a dynamic subject that has to keep changing as the world around us keeps changing. Now, more than ever, it is essential that we understand how humans interact with the natural environment if we are to protect the world from irreversible damage and give all inhabitants of the earth a high quality of life. Some of the questions that this course will help you to answer are:

- How rebranding can help change the image of large cities
- Why coastal resorts have changed over time?
- How can we minimise the impact of sea level change?

What do you need to be good at?

It is not essential to have studied Geography at GCSE – you will develop these skills during the Sixth Form, but an enthusiasm for the subject is essential.

During the two-year course, you will develop the ability to:

- analyse information in the form of maps, photos, articles and statistics
- consider all viewpoints on geographical issues
- empathise with people from other communities
- present data in a variety of formats
- present well-structured, reasoned arguments

How will you be taught?

You will be taught by two subject specialists who divide the course between them into Physical and Human Geography.

Lessons will involve a range of learning styles, including fieldwork, decision-making exercises, geographical enquiry, note-taking, case studies, statistical analysis, watching videos and self-directed study. You will be set one written assignment per week by each teacher, but will be expected to supplement this with your own background research.

What can you do with the qualification?

Geography combines elements of both Sciences and Arts, so is an ideal preparation for any degree course.

It can lead particularly well into employment in the following areas:

Travel and Tourism, Environmental Management, Meteorology, Town & Country Planning, Teaching, Geological and Oil Research, Hydrological Engineering, Land Management, Forestry, Logistics.

Geographers are also a very employable group, owing to the broad range of research and analytical skills which they develop throughout the course.

What does the course involve?

We follow the Exexcel B Specification which is assessed through a combination of examinations and coursework as follows:

AS Course (New Specification 2008)

	Module Title	Content	weighting	Assessment
Unit 1	Global Challenges Headline issues in the 21 st Century	Topic 1 – World At Risk. An introduction to range of global natural hazards, followed by Climate Change and Global Warming as major environmental challenges. Topic 2 – Going Global. Bringing together rapid economic changes impacting unfairly on people across the globe, relating to international issues of population change and immigration.	60% AS 30% of A Level	90 minute exam with resource paper
Unit 2	Geographical Investigations The study of Physical and Human topics. Fieldwork – research and practical.	Topic 3 – Crowded Coasts. Reveals how increasing development is testing our ability to manage these valued environments. Topic 4 – Rebranding Places. Focusing on how we need to re-image and regenerate rural and urban places, using appropriate strategies.	40% AS 20% of A Level	90 minute exam with resource paper

A2 Course

	Module Title	Content	weighting	Assessment
Unit 3	Contested Planet	Section A - Choice of 2 of the following: water conflicts, biodiversity under threat, energy, superpowers, development, technology Section B – Synoptic Investigation	60% A2 30% total GCE	2hr 30 min written exam
Unit 4	Geographical Research	Choice of research topics: tectonics, cold environments, food, culture, pollution, leisure and tourism.	40% A2 20% total GCE	1hr 30 min written exam

History AS + A2

Why study History?

History is an art form which uses some scientific methods. If you find people and the enormous diversity of things they have achieved, fought over, struggled for and believed in interesting, and if you want to understand more about the world today, History is for you. At St Christopher we study the OCR syllabus with modules on the English Civil War, the French Revolution and International Relations 1919-1941.

What will you need to be good at?

Problem-solving and decision-making. Developing presentational skills both in discussion and on paper. Broadening awareness of human psychology. Studying topics or good narratives in depth. Learning about and from different cultures. Exploring the role of individuals, ideas and groups in historical development. The relationship of past and present and the connection between historical change and different disciplines. Acquiring an understanding of the philosophy of history.

Ability to listen – to the past and in class. Ability to produce a coherent developed analysis on paper. An open minded, sceptical, questioning approach to topics. An eye for detail. Imagination and sensitivity. Disciplined study skills. Courage in the face of challenges and uncertainty. An interest in the wider community. An enjoyment of reading, discussion and research.

How will you be taught?

Lessons are a mix of formal explanations, audio-visual presentations, discussions, question and answer sessions, source analysis and exercises designed to increase understanding of the objectives being assessed. Students will note, research and answer questions on nearly all the key topics, only a few of them being covered by circulars and formal teaching. There will be regular tests. Presentations may be by students as well as staff. However structured the sessions, there will always be a lot of scope for individual participation.

What can you do with the qualification?

Any student coping successfully with an A Level syllabus will acquire a wide-range of transferable skills, useful in media, business administration, politics, humanitarian work – indeed in any experience involving interaction with people. History is highly regarded by university departments in general, but especially those concerned with the media, management, law, sociology, psychology, politics and international relations. The disciplines involved are well understood. It is also a subject welcomed by nursing courses and others preparing students for care-work.

What does the course involve?

We follow the OCR Advanced Specification HI106 and H506 which is assessed through a combination of examinations and coursework as follows:

AS Course

	Module Title	Content	weighting	Assessment
Unit 1	Democracy and Dictatorship in Italy 1896-1943	Italian social and economic problems, the impact of the First World War, the rise of Fascism, the Fascist era and the Fall of Mussolini	50% AS 25% A2	1½ hour exam
Unit 2	Churchill 1920-1945	The life and times of Winston Churchill, examining his career from the end of WW1, through the 1920s and 1930s and as Prime Minister in WW2	50% AS 25% A2	1½ hour exam

A2 Course

	Module Title	Content	Weighting	Assessment
Unit 3	Historical Investigations and Interpretations	Origins of World War Two 1919-1941	25%	Two pieces of Coursework
Unit 4	Civil Rights in the USA 1865-1992	The struggle for civil rights of women, the working class, farmers, African Americans and Native Americans	25%	2 hour exam

Mathematics AS + A2

Why study Mathematics?

You will deepen and extend your understanding of Mathematics; you will also meet new and powerful ideas, which have both intrinsic interest and wide applicability. In Pure Mathematics, you will continue with the study of algebra, trigonometry and co-ordinate geometry from GCSE but will also meet the new topics of differential and integral calculus. In Mechanics you will learn how to model important physical situations involving forces and motions. In Statistics you will carry on from GCSE looking at how statistical analysis can be used to analyse data and investigate relationships between sets of data.

Gaining a higher qualification in Mathematics shows that you can think and work your way through problems.

What will you need to be good at?

You should have at least a grade B (preferably an A or A*) at GCSE. You need good algebraic skills in particular. You need to be prepared to work hard throughout the course, to complete written assignments on time, and to ask for help early enough for that help to be useful.

We expect to run two Mathematics sets. One set will include all those who wish to do Further Mathematics as well as students who are able to work at a faster pace.

How will you be taught?

You will have two teachers for Mathematics. Lessons will be in much the same style as for GCSE although students will need to spend more time on independent practice outside the classroom.

What can you do with the qualification?

An A Level in Mathematics is essential for studying Mathematics or the Physical Sciences (e.g. Physics or Engineering) at university, but is also viewed favourably as a qualification by a wide range of employers and by Admissions Tutors for many other university courses. Many careers can follow from the study of Mathematics including Engineering, work in research or the Sciences, financial work and teaching.

Edexcel (9371)**AS Course (Mathematics)**

	Module Title	Content	weighting	Assessment
Unit 1	C1 (Core Maths 1)	Algebra Linear and Quadratic Equations and Inequalities Coordinate Geometry Transformation of Graphs Calculus Arithmetic Series	16 ² /3%	90 minute exam
Unit 2	C2 (Core Maths 2)	Circle Geometry Binomial Expansion Applications of Calculus Trigonometry Logarithms Geometric Series	16 ² /3%	90 minute exam
Unit 3	M1 (Mechanics 1) (or D1 – see Further Maths for details)	Kinematics Statics Newton's Second Law Momentum and Impulse Connected Particles Moments	16 ² /3%	90 minute exam

A2 Course

	Module Title	Content	weighting	Assessment
Unit 4	C3 (Core Maths 3)	Algebra Functions Trigonometric Equations Further Differentiation Numerical methods	16 ² /3%	90 minute exam
Unit 5	C4 (Core Maths 4)	Partial Fractions Binomial Expansion Further Integration Further Coordinate Geometry Differential Equations Vectors	16 ² /3%	90 minute exam
Unit 6	S1 (Statistics 1) (or M2 – see Further Maths for details)	Representation of Data Summarising Data Probability Correlation and Regression Discrete Random Variables The Normal Distribution	16 ² /3%	90 minute exam

Media Studies AS + A2

Why study the Media?

Students taking this course will have the opportunity to analyse and critically evaluate a wide variety of media texts on three major platforms – broadcast media, e-media and print media. As well as analysing existing media, students will also research and produce their own media products on at least two of these platforms. The course has a strong focus on new and emerging technologies and an emphasis on contemporary issues and debates, meaning that students will find the work they do highly relevant to their own lives and experiences.

What will you need to be good at it?

Students who have taken Media Studies at GCSE will have an advantage; however this is not an essential requirement for the course. Good ICT skills are essential, and a knowledge of photo and video editing software is useful. The course requires students to have good analytical and creative skills, and to be able to write at length.

How will you be taught?

Lessons will be divided between classroom work on theory and media concepts, and practical work using ICT or digital audio/visual equipment to produce original media texts. Students will also be expected to undertake variety of independent research outside of lesson time. Production tasks, particularly those involving lots of filming and editing, are also likely to be done largely outside of lesson time.

What can you do with the qualification?

Media Studies is an ideal course to take if you are interested in pursuing a career in television, journalism, marketing or similar fields. However, the skills of analysis, production and evaluation developed on the course are highly transferable and would benefit students interested in a variety of subject areas. The understanding of, and ability to use, new and emerging IT technologies that the Media Studies course enables is also a very useful skill for the future.

What does the course involve?

We follow the Media Studies AQA Specification which is assessed through a combination of examinations and coursework as follows:

AS Course (1571)

	Module Title	Content	Weighting	Assessment
Unit 1	Investigating the Media	Candidates will investigate a wide range of media texts and then undertake a cross-media study focusing on a topic of their choice. They will be assessed in an examination where they will have to answer four short essay questions on an unseen media text and then choose from two questions to answer in detail, referring to their study.	50% AS 25% A2	Written paper 2 hours
Unit 2	Creating Media	Candidates will produce two linked media artefacts on two different media platforms, based on a brief provided by the exam board. They will submit a portfolio comprising their pre-production and evaluative work as well as their finished product.	50% AS 25%A2	Coursework

A2 Course (2571)

	Module Title	Content	Weighting	Assessment
Unit 3	Critical Perspectives	Synoptic unit where candidates will be given two pre-set topic areas to explore across three media platforms and will choose one of these to investigate these independently. They will be assessed in an examination where they will have to answer three short essay questions on an unseen media text relating to the pre-set topics. They will then answer one questions from a choice of open-ended questions applying their synoptic knowledge of the topic.	25%	Written paper 2 hours
Unit 4	Research and Production	Candidates will research and produce one critical investigation on a topic of their choice which may be presented as a written report or may be presented in some other format. This research will then lead to a production task where students will create an original media text as a product of their investigation.	25%	Coursework

Music AS + A2

Why study Music?

An extremely varied subject involving many practical skills and activities.

A chance to understand and investigate music from many different styles and cultures.

An opportunity to perform and create music to a high standard, using modern technology where appropriate.

What will you need to be good at?

You will need to enjoy playing your instrument (or voice) confidently and be able to perform to a high standard. You should be able to experiment with ideas on your instrument in order to help you compose original music and you should ideally have an A* or A GCSE Music grade.

How will you be taught?

In small groups using the facilities of the Music Department. A significant proportion of sessions will involve practical work and you will take individual lessons on one instrument. There will be joint work and ensemble activities but also the need to enjoy independent learning in certain situations.

What can you do with the qualification?

There are many varied university courses you can consider from performance and composition through to sound and studio reproduction, film production, the recording industry and teaching among others. These types of course will lead to working in very interesting and challenging working environments.

What does the course involve?

We follow the Edexcel Specification which is assessed through a combination of examinations and coursework as follows:

AS Course

	Module Title	Content	weighting	Assessment
Unit 1	Performing	Performing and recording 1 or 2 solo pieces lasting up to 6 minutes in total.	30% AS	Coursework Recordings of performances
Unit 2	Composing	Compose a 3 minute piece based upon a brief set by the exam board.	30% AS	Coursework
Unit 3	Developing Musical Understanding	Different genres of music, such as Jazz and Pop, film music and orchestral pieces. Listening to and discussing music from around the world.	40% AS	Section A: Listening (32 marks) Section B: Investigating Musical Styles (28 marks) Section C: Understanding Chords and Lines (20 marks)

A2 Course

	Module Title	Content	weighting	Assessment
Unit 4	Extended Performance	Perform a balanced programme of pieces on students' own instrument lasting between 12 and 15 minutes.	30% A2	A recording of a recital on your own instrument, marked internally and moderated externally.
Unit 5	Composition and Technical Study	(i) Developing the students' ability to write music in specific styles using common techniques. (ii) Developing the ability to write a composition in a "free" style but incorporating a given brief from the exam board.	30% A2	Complete two tasks under controlled conditions: 2 compositions, or 2 technical studies, or one of each. The work is recorded and scores and recordings are then sent to exam board for marking.
Unit 6	Further Musical Understanding	Detailed research into the stylist and historical relevance of significant pieces of music. Comparison of music from different eras. Students will study two groups of set works, as well as techniques for answering questions on unfamiliar music.	40% A2	A 2 hour exam in three sections: (A) answer questions on recordings of unfamiliar music. (B) answer 2 questions on one of the groups of set works. (C) one essay question about three pieces from the other group of set works.

Music Technology AS

Why study Music Technology?

If you enjoy using a combination of technology and musicianship effectively and creatively to make music, including writing a score, using MIDI, a sampler or audio and exploring recording and production techniques, then this would be a great AS choice.

How is the course structured?

There are two units of work for the AS qualification:

Unit 1: comprised of one sequenced performance; one multi-track recording; one arrangement and a logbook. This is all completed as coursework.

Unit 2: a listening and analysing examination (a written exam paper involving questions based on CD extracts of music from the world of jazz and popular cultures).

Unit 1 accounts for 70% of the AS qualification, while unit 2 accounts for 30%.

What skills will I need?

- Be able to read and write music to a basic level initially.
- Be able to play a keyboard with a degree of confidence.
- Enjoy, and be able to use, sequencing software (such as Cubase).
- Be able to recognise and describe music from a range of jazz and pop styles.
- Be enthusiastic about the prospect of using portastudio equipment to record various groups and performers.

What could follow on from this course?

This subject could lead onto studying a variety of courses at university, including sound production, studio and film techniques and commercial and media composition. The course is designed to introduce you to the skills and knowledge you need to work in the music technology industry.

What does the course involve?

Music technology AS Course

	Module Title	Content	weighting	Assessment
Unit 1	Sequencing, Recording and Arranging.	Task 1A: Sequenced Realised Performance Task 1B: Multi-track Recording Task 1C: Creative Sequenced Arrangement	70% of the total AS marks.	Students produce an audio CD entitled "Music Technology Portfolio 1", containing three tracks of work as specified in the tasks. They also have to present a logbook. These are done as Coursework and is externally assessed.
Unit 2	Listening and Analysing	Students study the styles most common in popular Music, covering the development from 1910 through to the present day. There are also two special focus works.	30% of the total AS marks.	1 hour 45 minute examination, externally assessed, in the summer. Each student will have a copy of an audio CD supplied by Edexcel, containing recorded excerpts.

A2 Course

	Module Title	Content	weighting	Assessment
Unit 3	Music Technology Portfolio 2	Task 3A: Sequenced Integrated Performance Task 3B: Multi-Track Recording Task 3C: Composing using Music Technology	60% of the total A2 marks.	Students produce an audio CD entitled "Music Technology Portfolio 2", containing three tracks of work as specified in the tasks. They also have to present a logbook. These are done as Coursework and is externally assessed.
Unit 4	Analysing and Producing	Students will be expected to demonstrate their knowledge of music and the principles of music technology through a series of written commentaries, manipulations and production tasks using material provided on an examination paper and recorded on an audio CD.	40% of the total A2 marks.	2 hour examination, externally assessed. Each student will have an audio CD which will contain a series of music files to be imported into music production software. Each student will also have an examination paper in which some or all of the CD tracks will be notated as conventional staff notation, editing grids or numerical data.

Physical Education AS + A2

Why study Physical Education?

A Level PE is both physically and intellectually challenging. The units are arranged to allow high grades to be gained by those who have an interest in PE without competing at a high standard in any particular sport.

What will you need to be good at?

Anyone with an interest in PE can apply to take the subject. Students who have a good grade at GCSE PE and or a high grade in Biology would be most suited to take this subject.

How will you be taught?

You will have three compulsory lessons per week at AS Level and the same at A2. The lessons will be divided into the sub-units of each of the components. In addition to this each PE student will be expected to attend a PE Practical lesson once per week. At the end of the first year all students will take an exam on the work covered in unit 2 and all of the coursework for unit 1 will be completed. Units 3 and 4 will be taught in the second year. Students will sit an exam paper at the end of unit 5 and submit coursework for unit 3.

Unit 1 Practical performance in one sport, plus officiating or coaching development. Route 1 or 2*

Unit 2 Contemporary issues in sport

Unit 3 Further development of physical activity

Unit 4 Refining sporting performance and enhancing health

***Route 1** Students choose a gymnastic or competitive game to develop.

***Route 2** Students choose an adventurous area or develop their own health fitness and well being through the attendance at registered lessons i.e. yoga classes.

What can you do with this qualification?

Physical Education is currently one of the world's largest growth industries. Companies are employing people with a sports background to do numerous jobs, including analytical work, motivational work and training or coaching. This subject will allow you to look at your own performance and analyse others in a new and dynamic way.

Careers

The PE A-Level course is a good foundation for many Higher Education courses.

Common links are:

- PE teaching
- Psychology
- Sport and Recreation Management
- Sports Coaching
- Physiotherapy
- Social History
- TV, Radio and Newspaper Journalism

What does the course involve?

We follow the WJEC Specification which is assessed through a combination of examinations and both written and practical coursework as follows:

AS Course

	Module Title	Content	Weighting of AS	Assessment
Unit 1	PE1 Performance	1. Must choose Route 1 or 2* (see course description)	30%	Practical must be from one of the four areas. Only one activity need be chosen. Coaching or officiating assessed on exam board's criteria.
	Personal Performance Profile mark /50	2. Max 2000 words, similar idea to GCSE PEP (on sport from 1)	10%	
	Coaching/ Officiating	3. Plan + coach session (of activity named in 1) OR officiate game (of 1)	10%	
Unit 2	PE2 Contemporary issues	Lifestyle choices, participation in physical activity (Physiology, Psychology, Technique), Psychology, Physiology, Nutrition	50%	Exam 1 hour and 45 minutes Structured questions + 1 extended writing question

A2 Course (after completing Units 1+2 at AS)

	Module Title	Content	Weighting of A2	Assessment
Unit 3	PE3 A. 2 Components refining performance from PE1)	1 physical activity (same or different as PE1). Develop either as performer or coach or official	17.5%	Coursework Practical Assessment plus development of either coaching or officiating skills 3000 words investigative project
	B. Investigative research of a synoptic nature	Related to sport in A. Suggests how to refine performance (critical analysis and reflection)	7.5%	
Unit 4	PE4 Refining sporting performance & enhancing health and contemporary influences affecting provision and performance in physical activity	Sports testing, health monitoring, motivation, stress management. Investigating opportunities for activity in UK, socio-cultural factors affecting participation, commercialisation of sport, scientific and technological developments	25%	Exam 2 hours Section A: Compulsory structured question's Section B: 1 extended writing question (from choice of 2)

Physics AS + A2

Why study Physics?

Physics is an exciting and exacting subject and is the basis of all the natural sciences.

Physics answers such questions as:

Why are black holes black? Why is gravity an attractive force and not a repulsive one? Did the universe actually start? Will the universe ever end? Can you travel forwards in time and possibly backwards? Can anything travel faster than light at any time? Can an electron be both a wave and particle? What happens to an electron when it is accelerated to near the speed of light? Does antimatter really exist? Why do people want to find Higgs' Boson?

What will you need to be good at?

A good grade in 2 or more Science GCSEs of 'B' or above is highly desirable. There is also a need for a good grasp of Mathematics so again a good grade of 'B' or above at GCSE is recommended. It is also advisable to follow an 'A' Level Mathematics to assist in the understanding of this subject, but not essential. If you want to continue with Physics at university you must take A Level Mathematics.

How will you be taught?

A mixture of practical work, interactive software, videos, class teaching and discussion, note-taking, problem-solving and so on. There are regular tests to check you are on course. There is also an expectation that students will take on more responsibility for their own learning and maintaining deadlines.

What can you do with the qualification?

Engineering, Medicine, Industrial Research, Astronomy, Particle Physics Research, Material Science and as well as the continued study of Physics itself.

What does the course involve?

We follow the OCR H158 and H558 Specification which is assessed through a combination of examinations and coursework as follows:

AS Course

	Module Title	Content	weighting	Assessment
Unit 1	Mechanics	Motion Forces in Action Work and Energy	30% AS 15% A2	1 hour written exam
Unit 2	Electrons, Waves and Photons	Electric Current Resistance DC Circuits Waves Quantum Physics	50% AS 25% A2	1 hour 45 minutes written exam
Unit 3	Practical Skills in Physics 1	Internal assessment of practical skills.	20% AS 10% A2	Internal Assessment

A2 Course

	Module Title	Content	weighting	Assessment
Unit 4	Newtonian World	Newton's Laws and Momentum Circular Motions and Oscillations Thermal Physics	15%	1 hour written exam
Unit 5	Fields, Particles and Frontiers of Physics	Electric and Magnetic Fields Capacitors and Exponential Decay Nuclear Physics Medical Imaging Modelling the Universe	25%	1 hour 45 minutes written exam
Unit 6	Practical Skills in Physics 2	Internal assessment of practical skills	10%	Internal Assessment

Politics AS + A2

Why study Politics?

If you find the events on the news perplexing and want to understand them more, if you want to understand something of the history of Britain and other countries since 1945; if you are interested in the philosophies and policies of the main political parties, the way Britain's and other nations' governments are run and some of the key political concepts of the modern world, Politics is for you.

What will you need to be good at?

You will have an interest in understanding the complexities of British society and a willingness to read newspapers and pay attention to broadcast news and documentaries. You need to have a critical and enquiring mind and a desire to defend a viewpoint with sustained and clear use of evidence, both in writing and orally in lessons.

A GCSE grade C in History or other humanities subjects is very useful as you will need to be familiar with the techniques of source analysis and some basic political and economic concepts.

How will it be taught?

You will learn by a mixture of talks, discussion groups, video and audio material, visits to political talk shows such as BBC Question Time, to A Level Politics conferences, to the Law Courts and to Parliament. We will read recent newspaper and magazine articles and watch recent documentaries. There will be outside speakers and opportunities to attend debates at the Council Chamber and meetings of pressure groups.

What can you do with the qualification?

Careers in Teaching, Political and Social Research, the Civil Service, Journalism, Publishing, Television and Radio, Public Relations, the Law, Social Services and many others beckon.

Government and Politics AS + A2

What does the course involve?

We follow the OCR Specification H095 and H495 which is assessed through a combination of examinations and coursework as follows:

AS Course

	Module Title	Content	weighting	Assessment
Unit 1	Contemporary Government of the UK	The UK Constitution and Constitutional Principles Parliament The Prime Minister The Judiciary The Civil Service Central-Local Relations Britain and the EU	50% AS 25% A2	1½ hour exam
Unit 2	Contemporary Politics of the UK	Pressure Groups Political Parties and the Party System Citizenship, Rights and Redress of Grievances, Voting Behaviour, the Mass Media, Systems of Proportional Representation; National, Local, Regional and European Elections	50% AS 25% A2	1½ hour exam

A2 Course

	Module Title	Content	weighting	Assessment
Unit 3	US Government & Politics	The US Constitution Congress The Presidency The Supreme Court The Federal System of Government	25%	1 ½ hour exam
Unit 5	Contemporary Politics of the US	Pressure Groups Political Parties and the Party System Citizenship, Rights and Redress of Grievances	25%	1 ½ hour exam

Psychology AS + A2

Why study Psychology?

This course will attempt to unravel the complexities of human behaviour. In the AS Psychology Course we will explore issues such as whether psychologists can improve the accuracy of eyewitness testimony, how the bond between mother and child influences the child's emotional development, how we reduce stress in our lives, why people conform. The AS Course will include the opportunity for students to take part in a range of practical research activities and develop an understanding of psychological investigations.

During the A2 course there will be the opportunity to examine some of the topics in more depth. For instance: the development of thinking in children, causes of aggression, causes of mental illness and media psychology.

What will you need to be good at?

No prior knowledge of Psychology is required for this course, although an interest in human behaviour is an advantage. During the course you will need to be able to communicate effectively and research information from a variety of sources, so an ability to communicate both verbally and in writing would be an advantage. The course will involve carrying out a number of experiments and other pieces of research, so it would also be an advantage to have mathematical skills in order to analyse the results, and carry out some simple statistical calculations.

How will you be taught?

During the lessons there will be many opportunities for discussion. A wide range of sources of information will be explored, including videos, newspaper and journal articles and the Internet. Most of the topic areas will involve practical investigations and experiments to be carried out both within and outside the classroom. Students will be expected to take notes, complete written homework and carry out background reading on the topics covered in the class.

What can you do with the qualification?

There are very few areas of human life and work where psychology does not provide insight. A Level Psychology is accepted as an entry qualification to a wide range of higher education courses and provides a helpful background for courses as diverse as English, Business Studies and Occupational Therapy. For those that go on to complete a degree in Psychology there are a range of career opportunities these include the opportunity for professional training as, for instance, a Clinical Psychologist, Educational Psychologist, Forensic Psychologist or Occupational Psychologist.

What does the course involve?

We follow the AQA Specification which is assessed through examinations as follows:

AS Course

	Module Title	Content	Weighting	Assessment
Unit 1	Cognitive Psychology, Developmental Psychology and Research Methods	Models of Memory Memory in Everyday Life Explanations of Attachment Attachment in Everyday Life Methods of Investigation Data Analysis and Presentation	50% AS 25% A2	90 minute exam
Unit 2	Biological Psychology, Social Psychology and Individual Differences	Stress as a Bodily Response Stress in Everyday Life Conformity and Obedience Social Influence in Everyday Life Defining and Explaining Psychological Abnormality Treating Abnormality	50% AS 25% A2	90 minute exam

A2 Course

	Module Title	Content	Weighting	Assessment
Unit 3	Topics in Psychology	Cognition and Development Gender Aggression	25%	90 minute exam
Unit 4	Psychopathology, Psychology in Action and Research Methods	Diagnosis, Causes of and Treatments for Depression Media Psychology The Scientific Method, Designing and Analysis of Psychological Investigations	25%	2 hour exam

Spanish AS + A2

Why study Spanish?

You will have the opportunity to discuss contemporary issues in Spanish and enrich your knowledge of Spanish culture and civilization. At the end of the course your good linguistic skills and deeper understanding of the Spanish-speaking countries will make you a valuable and interesting partner for discussion.

Spanish is an increasingly popular language, spoken by 350 million people in the world. Not only Spain but also Central and South America offer huge economic potential. Therefore choosing Spanish is a way of having more than one string to your bow.

What will you need to be good at?

Grade A or B at GCSE is essential. You will have to be ready to read a lot (newspaper articles, literature etc.) in order to deepen your knowledge of Spanish-speaking cultures. You will have to be prepared to learn grammatical concepts essential to make your writing richer and more like that of a native speaker.

How will you be taught?

The teaching will be more formal for the learning of grammar, as good linguistic skills will enhance your communicative ability. It will involve video and listening comprehension as well as group discussions, discussions led by individual students about current issues and literature. There will also be personal use of the Internet for research and communication and one-to-one sessions with a teacher.

Through our exchange programme with a Spanish school in Alcoy, you will have the opportunity to spend a period of time in Spain towards the end of the Lower Sixth year or in holiday time. There is also a language assistant (native speaker) who provides one-to-one practice and support.

What can you do with the qualification?

Within the modern world there is an increasing emphasis in business on fluency in a European language, so knowledge of Spanish will be helpful in both business and other global contexts.

What does the course involve?

We follow the OCR Specification which is assessed through a combination of examinations and coursework as follows:

AS Course

	Module Title	Content	weighting	Assessment
Unit 1	Spanish Speaking	An extended 5 minute role play (to be developed from a cue text in English). A 10 minute topic discussion on a topic of the student's choice.	30% AS 15% A2	15 minute Oral Exam – competent communication skills are most important in the assessment
Unit 2	Listening, Reading and Writing	Mixed skills paper stressing comprehension and responding adequately to cue texts	70% AS 35% A2	2 ½ hour mixed skill paper testing mainly vocabulary & comprehension

A2 Course

	Module Title	Content	weighting	Assessment
Unit 4	Speaking and Reading	5 minute discussion of a text in the target language and 10 minute topic discussion on a current affairs theme	15%	Language proficiency, complexity and fluency. 15 minute oral exam
Unit 5	Listening, Reading and Writing	Mixed skills paper assessing all language skills except speaking. General proficiency in a wide range of skills and structures. This paper now includes an essay-writing task	35%	3 hour exam

Theatre Studies AS + A2

Why study Theatre Studies?

Theatre Studies provides the opportunity for an in-depth study of the theatre in all its aspects. This involves a wide range of approaches, both theoretical and practical. Students study set plays from a performance and production perspective, perform devised and scripted pieces, learn about the ideas of key theatre practitioners and see at least four live productions each year. Although most students tend to opt for acting as their practical assessment, they can choose a design/technical option instead, such as set design or lighting, for example.

What will you need to be good at?

Students need an active interest in theatre and should enjoy either acting or working in design or technical roles. It is vital that students have good social skills as much of the course involves group work. As in all the arts, analytical and evaluative skills are also important. Also, practical ability as an actor, technician and designer is needed.

How will you be taught?

There are four one-hour lessons a week. Most lessons are highly practical in content. This includes the study of set texts, where students often perform extracts of the plays, and of theatre practitioners, where students give oral presentations. Lessons often involve workshop activities and discussion. However, students have to write essays in their own time, as well as practising in class under exam conditions. Feedback and evaluation exercises form an important part of the learning process. Outside the classroom, visits to the theatre are an integral component of the course.

What can you do with the qualification?

An A Level in Theatre Studies has parity with all other subjects for university entrance. It is also an important qualification for those wishing to go to Drama School, either as performers or designers/technicians. Beyond theatre itself, most employers now recognise the broader benefits the course brings such as developing self-confidence, the ability to express yourself in public and the acquisition of social skills.

What does the course involve?

We follow the AQA Specification which is assessed through a combination of examinations and coursework as follows:

AS Course

	Module Title	Content	weighting	Assessment
Unit 1	Live production seen and prescribed play	Personal response to live theatre; Interpretation of set text	60% AS 30% A2	Examination, Externally set and assessed
Unit 2	Presentation of a play extract	Acting performance and study of practitioner	40% AS 20% A2	Internally assessed, Externally moderated

A2 Course

	Module Title	Content	weighting	Assessment
Unit 3	Further prescribed plays including pre-twentieth century	Study of two set plays: pre-20 th and 20 th Century	30%	Examination, externally set and assessed
Unit 4	Presentation of devised drama	Presentation of devised drama. Research into theatrical style	20%	Internally assessed, externally moderated